

O 101410Z AUG 98  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7015  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4149  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC//USDP/ASD-PA/ASD-ISA// IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//EC/ECJ4-EDC (LTC CRUMRINE)//  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//EC/ECJ3-OC-0 (MAJ NORTH)//  
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//OOA//  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIRUT 002888

STATE FOR NEA/ARN, SMEC, INR/NESA, INR/TNA, HA, IO,  
S/P, PA, P/M, NEA/P, AND AID FOR ENE  
USIA FOR NEA, R, P/F, P/G, P/P, P/FW, P/FN, P/M, TV/P,  
P/R, TV/W; VOA/BRN, VOA NEWS/CA,  
USIA FOR NEA - GOOD, OWEN, BELL, DATTA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/COUNTRYMAN  
PARIS ALSO FOR LEAF  
LONDON ALSO FOR TUELLER  
NICOSIA FOR ILMG ANO BSO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [KILS](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [LE](#) [IS](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: EXPLOSIONS IN AFRICA: ARE THERE ANY AMERICAN  
INTENTIONS TO ACCUSE LIBYA, IRAN, OR ISLAMIC RADICALS?

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11. SUMMARY  
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THE TWO EXPLOSIONS WERE REPORTED ON THE FRONT-PAGE OF  
EVERY NEWSPAPER IN LEBANON. MOST REPORTED THE EVENT  
WITH NO EDITORIALIST REACTION. THE ONLY TWO  
EDITORIALS THAT WERE WRITTEN WERE CONTRADICTORY.  
JOSEPH SAMAHA OF ARAB NATIONALIST DAILY AS-SAFIR  
WARNED THAT "BEING AN ENEMY TO THE US IS ONE THING AND  
PLANNING TERRORIST ATTACKS IS ANOTHER." HE ADDED,  
"WHOEVER PLANNED THESE ATTACKS MADE A BIG MISTAKE".  
SYRIA'S MOUTHPIECE IN LEBANON 'ASH-SHARQ', HOWEVER,  
RIDICULED THE AMERICAN STATEMENT ON HAVING SOME IDEAS  
ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
EXPLOSIONS. ASH-SHARQ ACCUSED THE US OF INTENDING TO  
IMPLICATE AN ARAB COUNTRY OR ARAB ISLAMISTS. IT  
CONCLUDED THAT THE REAL ATTACKER IS THE CIA AND THE  
JEWISH LOBBY. END SUMMARY.

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12. HEADLINES:  
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"TERRORISM TERRORIZES AMERICA IN THE HEART OF AFRICA"  
(ARAB AFFAIRS ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT HEADLINE)

"WASHINGTON HAS SOME IDEAS ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE  
TERRORISTS AND KENYA ARRESTED A SUSPECT IN ARAB  
CLOTHES" (PRO-SUNNI AL-LIWA' HEADLINE)

"UNKNOWN ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR EXPLOSIONS" (ARAB AFFAIRS AL-HAYAT HEADLINE)

"WHO HIT AMERICAN TARGETS?" (SENSATIONALIST AD-DIYAR  
HEADLINE)

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13. EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIALS:  
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"WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPLOSIONS IN AFRICA" A FRONT-  
PAGE EDITORIAL BY AWNI AL-KA'KI IN SYRIA'S MOUTHPIECE

PRO-BA'TH DAILY 'ASH-SHARQ' (08/8): "IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPLOSIONS IN AFRICA. HOWEVER, A FEW HOURS FOLLOWING THE EXPLOSIONS, THE US ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS SOME IDEA ABOUT WHO DID IT. HOW DID THE US GET ITS IDEAS SO FAST? THIS AMERICAN STATEMENT CARRIES DANGEROUS INDICATIONS. IT MEANS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE INTENDS TO ACCUSE SOMEBODY, MOST PROBABLY AN ARAB STATE. WHAT IS THE US PLANNING TO DO? PERHAPS IT INTENDS TO ACCUSE LIBYA FOLLOWING THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES' DECISION TO LIFT EMBARGO AGAINST LIBYA. PERHAPS THE US INTENDS TO ACCUSE IRAN BECAUSE IRAN'S NEW OPENNESS TOWARDS THE US BOTHERS ISRAEL. FINALLY, THE US MAY ACCUSE ALL ISLAMISTS! WE BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPLOSIONS ARE THE JEWISH LOBBY AND THE CIA."

"WHO DARES" A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL BY JOSEPH SAMAHA IN ARAB NATIONALIST AS-SAFIR (08/8) "THE MESSAGE SENT BY THE EGYPTIAN ISLAMIC "JIHAD" CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXPLOSIONS IN AFRICA, (WHETHER THEY ARE REALLY RESPONSIBLE OR NOT), ENFEEBLES THE ARABS' ABILITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES FROM BEING AUTOMATICALLY ACCUSED OF TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST US INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD... WHOEVER PLANS TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE US IS COMMITTING A GRAVE MISTAKE. TERRORIST ATTACKS OF THIS TYPE WILL NEVER OUST CLINTON OR CHANGE AMERICAN POLICY. ON THE CONTRARY, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NEITHER FORSAKE THEIR PRESIDENT IN TIMES OF CRISIS, NOR RELENT TO TERRORISTS' DEMANDS. THE RESULT? MOST OF THE DEAD AND INJURED ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE WHOSE DEATHS WON'T FULFILL THE TERRORISTS' DESIRES AND DREAMS."

14. POC FOR THIS REPORT IS PETER VROOMAN, POL OFFICER.

BERRY